

# Burghley House

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**History:** Burghley House is located in Stamford, Lincolnshire. Queen Elizabeth's Lord High Treasurer, William Cecil, began building it in 1555. Cecil was known as Lord Burghley and was a major political figure during the reign of Elizabeth I. He was described as being the Queen's "greatest, gravest, and most esteemed Councillor." The building of Burghley House was a way to declare the importance of Lord Burghley's status.

**Architecture:** Burghley House took 32 years to complete. It is known as one of the largest and grandest houses of the first Elizabethan Age. The stone used to build the magnificent building was oolitic limestone from the local quarry of Northamptonshire. The main part of the house has 35 major rooms on the ground and first floors. There are also 80 lesser rooms along with a number of corridors, bathrooms, and service areas. Along with the number of rooms within the Burghley House, there are gardens and a deer park outdoors.

## **Fun facts**

- Burghley House has been feature in two famous films: *Pride and Prejudice* and *The Da Vinci Code*.
- The house is also home to a huge collection of works and arts which includes:
  - One of the most important private collections of 17<sup>th</sup> century Italian paintings
  - Earliest inventoried collection of Japanese ceramics
  - Wood carvings by Grinling Gibbons

